

contained one egg of the Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*), measuring 17.1 x 12.5 mm., together with two eggs of the whiteface, which measured 16.0 x 12.6 mm., and 16.1 x 12.6 mm. The cuckoo's egg so much resembled the host's eggs in colour and size that only close inspection identified the cuckoo's egg. It was more elongated in shape and the markings were in the form of distinct small spots instead of blotches. This species of whiteface has not previously been recorded as a host of the Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo.

—P. J. FULLER, West Perth.

A Further Record of *Puffinus gavia* from Western Australia.—On June 13, 1956, a storm-driven specimen of the Fluttering Shearwater (*Puffinus gavia*) was collected by E. M. Watson on Swanbourne beach, 5 miles north of Fremantle. The bird, which had been ashore for about two days, was in poor condition, but the distinctively coloured legs and the distribution of the plumage colours on the head were still clearly discernible. The dimensions were: length, 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.; culmen, 37.8 mm.; wing, 228 mm.; tail, 70 mm.; tarsus, 44 mm.; middle toe and claw, 53 mm. The beak was pale lead-grey; tarsus, grey-brown on the outer aspect and white-flesh on the inner. The dark feathering on the head extended well below eye-level.

The specimen clearly belonged to the large race *huttoni* and its dimensions approach the largest examples of that race reviewed by D. L. Serventy (*Emu*, vol. 39, 1939, p. 103). It was apparently a fairly mature bird as the white feathering on the throat was restricted to a rather narrow central strip, as illustrated by Serventy for his adult South Australian specimen (Pl. 14, right figure), and the under-wing pattern agreed with Serventy's fig. 2.

The only other specimen of this petrel known from Western Australia is a beach derelict found at Bunbury by F. Lawson Whitlock on May 23, 1937, and which was described as a new species (*P. leptorhynchus*) by Gregory Mathews. The race *huttoni* is believed to breed at the Snares Island, south of New Zealand, but V. I. Clark and C. A. Fleming (*N.Z. Bird Notes*, vol. 2, 1948, p. 187) state that as no later visitors to the Snares have seen this petrel there is a possibility that the original specimens were wrongly labelled. Specimens of *huttoni* have been taken in various parts of southern Australia, north to Garie in N.S.W., and in Cook Strait, New Zealand.

—J. A. L. WATSON, Zoology Department,
University of Western Australia.

A Recent Western Australian Record of the Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas*).—The Ghost Bat (*Macroderma gigas* (Dobson)) has been rarely collected or observed in Western Australia. The last two specimens to reach the Western Australian Museum were from Mt. Anderson Station, in the Kimberley Division (January, 1931) and from the All Nations Mine, Nullagine (January, 1942). It is of interest, therefore, to record a specimen taken by the

author on an island off King Sound, near Derby, in September, 1955.

Because of a report to Mr. L. Glauert, Director, Western Australian Museum, by Mr. L. McMillan, of the Wotjulum Mission, that aborigines had seen large light-coloured bats in the Wotjulum region, the author decided to investigate caves in the area while on a collecting trip there. In company with an aborigine kindly placed at his disposal by the Mission authorities he went by dugout canoe to the bat-inhabited island.

The island's shores consisted of large slate-coloured cliffs with a narrow ledge at the base; and the caves could better be described as vertical cracks. Numerous bats were seen wedged in tiny cracks, but all appeared to be Free-tailed Bats (*Taphozous georgianus* Thomas) with occasional Little Bats (*Vespadelus pumilus* (Gray)). The caves were inhabited by many vicious small ants (*Iridomyrmex* sp.) and large numbers of a silverfish (*Machilis* sp.). After searching four caves without seeing a Ghost Bat among the many bats present, a further examination was made of the largest cave. A shot was fired at a couple of bats wedged in a crevice high up. One squeaked and as it fell a large white bat flew to the wounded one clinging to the wall in the same manner as I have seen butcher-birds (*Cracticus*) tackle birds I have shot. The large bat was collected and proved to be a male Ghost Bat.

The ventral surface of the specimen (W.A. Museum No. M3076) was white and it had dove grey fur on upper surfaces. The white colour can be compared with the delicate shade of white butterflies of the family Pieridae. All bare flesh was pink and the eyes were brown. Measurements of the specimen were as follows:—Head and body length, 120 mm.; ear, 52; forearm, 113; pes, 26. Dimensions of skull: length, 38.5 mm.; breadth, 24.3; inter-orbital constriction, 4; palate, 13.

The Ghost Bat apparently does not occur in numbers, as only three were seen and each appeared to be the only one present in the cave. It is possible that the bat does not leave the cave under normal conditions. It also seems possible that the smaller bats are wedged deeply into crevices to escape the attacks of the Ghost Bat. Little information on the animal could be obtained from the aborigines and none could supply a name for it.

—A. M. DOUGLAS, W.A. Museum, Perth.

Grey Butcher-bird (*Cracticus torquatus*), is it cannibalistic?—On "Yanjettee" every year there appears to be a high mortality among eggs and nestlings of Butcher-birds and also of Magpies (*Gymnorhina dorsalis*). Some of this may be caused by my presence at the nests, disturbing the birds and setting up conflict emotions (see E. A. Armstrong, *Bird Display and Behaviour*, 1947, pp. 34-36). However, in 1955 I recorded an incident which suggests the possibility of cannibalism in Butcher-birds. During that year I found eight nests on "Yanjettee." The history of these may be summarised as follows:—